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THE JANUARY MEETING OF THE KANSAS SECTION.

The eighth regular meeting of the Kansas Section was held at the Central High School, Topeka, Kansas, on January 21, 1922, in connection with a meeting of the Kansas Association of Mathematics Teachers. Two sessions were held, the first of which was a joint session with the Kansas Association. Professor Shirk presided at both sessions.

There were sixty-eight in attendance, including the following twenty-three members of the Association:

C. H. Ashton, L. C. Bagby, H. W. Bailey, Florence Black, R. H. Carpenter, Lucy Dougherty, W. H. Garrett, W. A. Harshbarger, T. B. Henry, W. H. Hill, Emma Hyde, S. Lefschetz, C. F. Lewis, Anna Marm, U. G. Mitchell, H. S. Myers, B. L. Remick, D. H. Richert, J. A. G. Shirk, G. W. Smith, E. B. Stouffer, W. T. Stratton, J. J. Wheeler.

The following officers were elected for the coming year: Chairman, Professor White; Vice-Chairman, Miss Dougherty; Secretary, Professor Mitchell.

The following papers were presented:

(1) "Report of the Kansas Committee coöperating with the National Committee on Mathematical Requirements" by Professor U. G. Mitchell.

(2) "Plane geometry as a college subject" by Professor J. A. G. Shirk.

(3) "Does the usual algebra and geometry course fit the needs of the pupil?" by Mrs. H. E. Rynerson, Lawrence High School (by invitation).

(4) "What does the college expect of the algebra and trigonometry courses?" by Professor W. A. Harshbarger.

(5) "History and development of trigonometry" by Professor W. H. Hill.

(6) "Mathematics in Europe" by Professor Solomon Lefschetz.

(7) "Mathematics of insurance" by Mr. Richard Deaver, Provident Life and Trust Company (by invitation).

(8) "Mathematical determination of orbits" by Professor L. C. Bagby.

(9) "Content of a course in college mathematics for students who take no other mathematics courses" by Professor D. H. Richert.

Abstracts of the papers follow below, the numbers corresponding to numbers in the list of titles:

1. Professor Mitchell reported concerning the further activities of the National Committee on Mathematical Requirements since his report at the meeting a year ago and concerning the arrangements for the printing and distribution of their final report. He reported that the Kansas Committee had received no further publications from the National Committee and had held no meetings since the last report.

2. Professor Shirk reported that an extensive investigation was made of the mathematical training needed in the various trades and industries of the mining and industrial sections of Kansas. Because many students do not elect geometry

in their high school course, it has seemed advisable to give a freshman college course in this subject in order that these students may be enabled to take further college courses in mathematics. The State Manual Training Normal School has conducted three classes in plane geometry, each of increasing size. The course gives three hours college credit.

3. Mrs. Rynerson pointed out the great use of mathematics and emphasized the need of a careful investigation as to whether the usual algebra and geometry courses cannot be made more valuable to the pupil.

4. Professor Harshbarger presented a topical outline of the subjects that should be given in the fourth semester of high school algebra and in plane trigonometry to students expecting to enter college. Emphasis was placed on the conception of the function, the liberal use of the graph, and the derivation and intelligent use of formulæ in algebra. In trigonometry emphasis was placed on training the student to change readily the form of trigonometric expressions.

5. Professor Hill traced the history of trigonometry from Ahmes down to the present time. He mentioned especially the contributions of Hipparchus, Ptolemæus, Mueller, Rheticus, Napier, Briggs, Speidell and Oughtred.

6. During his recent stay in Europe Professor Lefschetz became very much impressed with the seriousness of the outlook for science and for the men who pursue it. In his paper he endeavored to make this clear by telling of some personal experiences. He also pointed out that for mathematicians in Europe as well as here relativity is the all-absorbing topic. He stated his belief that it is the duty of mathematical people to interpret this important idea to the public at large, and indicated what mathematical reading would form a good preparation to a thorough understanding of it.

7. Mr. Deaver outlined an original method of computing life insurance premiums. The method was illustrated by the calculation of several premiums.

8. Professor Bagby's paper consisted in a discussion of the methods of determining the orbits of asteroids and comets about the sun. The elements of an orbit were defined. The discussion was confined to the determination of the elements from three observations. An outline of the Laplacian method was given.

9. It seems probable that the usual courses in algebra and trigonometry do not contain the material most satisfactory for the student who takes no other college courses in mathematics. Professor Richert outlined a course extending over two semesters for a class meeting three times a week. The course would cover the important parts of algebra, trigonometry, differential calculus and integral calculus. It should probably be confined to juniors and seniors.

E. B. Stouffer, *Secretary-Treasurer.*